CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of configuring a user interface, comprising:

   receiving user interface data describing one or more user interface functions on a

        remote device through a network;

   comparing the user interface data with a user interface template; and

   configuring a display of one or more representations based on the user interface data,

        each representation corresponding to one of the user interface functions on the

        remote device and capable of interaction by a user therewith.

2.   The method as described in claim 1, further comprising:

   accepting input corresponding to the interaction by the user with a selected one of the

        representations; and

   communicating the input to the remote device through the network such that the user

        is able to utilize the user interface function on the remote device

        corresponding to the selected representation.

3.   The method as described in claim 2, further comprising translating the input into

   utilization by the user of the user interface function on the remote device

   corresponding to the selected representation.

4.   The method as described in claim 1, wherein the user interface functions on the

   remote device include at least one of: viewing the user interface functions, viewing

   output, selecting the user interface functions, selecting output, changing the user

   interface functions, and changing output.

5.   The method as described in claim 1, further comprising:

   monitoring the interaction of the user with the display of the one or more

        representations; and

   storing data representative of the monitored interaction, the monitored interaction

5   data capable of being used to configure the display of the representations.

1   6.   The method as described in claim 5, wherein the monitored interaction data includes

2   an amount of time spent by the user interacting with a selected one of the

3   representations, and further wherein the display of the representations is configured to

4   include the selected representation only if the amount of time spent by the user

5   interacting with the selected representation is greater than a threshold amount of time.

1   7.   The method as described in claim 5, wherein the monitored interaction data includes a

2   number of times spent by the user interacting with a selected one of the

3   representations, and further wherein the display of the representations is configured to

4   include the selected representation only if the number of times spent by the user

5   interacting with the selected representation is greater than a threshold number of

6   times.

1   8.   The method as described in claim 1, further comprising:

2   identifying a resource on the remote device with which the user interacts; and

3   loading a user interface corresponding to the identified resource.

1   9.   An information appliance capable of configuring a user interface, comprising:

2   equipment capable of connecting to a remote device through a network;

3   logic capable of receiving user interface data describing one or more user interface

4   functions on the remote device through the network;

5   logic capable of comparing the user interface data with a user interface template; and

6   logic capable of configuring a display of one or more representations based on the

7   user interface data, each representation corresponding to one of the user

8   interface functions on the remote device and capable of interaction by a user

9   therewith.

1   10.   The information appliance as described in claim 9, further comprising:

2   logic capable of accepting input corresponding to the interaction by the user with a

3   selected one of the representations; and

4   logic capable of communicating the input to the remote device through the network

5   such that the user is able to utilize the user interface function on the remote

6   device corresponding to the selected representation.

1   11.   The information appliance as described in claim 10, further comprising logic capable

2   of translating the input into utilization by the user of the user interface function on the

3   remote device corresponding to the selected representation.

1   12.   The information appliance as described in claim 9, further comprising:

2   logic capable of monitoring the interaction of the user with the display of the one or

3   more representations; and

4   logic capable of storing data representative of the monitored interaction, the

5   monitored interaction data capable of being used to configure the display of

6   the representations.

1   13.   A storage medium readable by an information appliance and having instructions

2   encoded thereon for causing the information appliance to perform a method of configuring a

3   user interface, the method comprising the steps of:

4   receiving user interface data describing one or more user interface functions on a

5   remote device through a network;

6   comparing the user interface data with a user interface template; and

7   configuring a display of one or more representations based on the user interface data,

8   each representation corresponding to one of the user interface functions on the

9   remote device and capable of interaction by a user therewith.

1   14.   The storage medium as described in claim 13, the method further comprising the

2   steps of:

3   accepting input corresponding to the interaction by the user with a selected one of the

4   representations; and

5   communicating the input to the remote device through the network such that the user

6   is able to utilize the user interface function on the remote device

7   corresponding to the selected representation.

15.   The storage medium as described in claim 14, the method further comprising the step

2   of translating the input into utilization by the user of the user interface function on the

3   remote device corresponding to the selected representation.

16.   A method of loading a user interface, comprising:

2   accessing a resource on a remote device through a network;

3   evaluating interaction of a user with the resource;

4   identifying the resource based on the evaluated interaction; and

5   loading a user interface corresponding to the identified resource.

17.   The method as described in claim 16, wherein the resource is at least one of: an

2   application, an executable file, a web page, and a document.

18.   The method as described in claim 16, wherein the evaluated interaction includes at

2   least one of: selecting an icon, manipulating a scroll bar, inputting a data set, and

3   interacting with a representation of a user interface function on the remote device.

19.   The method as described in claim 16, further comprising:

2   receiving user interface data describing one or more user interface functions on the

3   remote device through the network;

4   comparing the user interface data with a user interface template; and

5   configuring the loaded user interface based on the user interface data, the loaded

6   interface including one or more representations, each representation

7   corresponding to one of the user interface functions on the remote device and

8   capable of interaction by the user therewith.

20.   The method as described in claim 19, further comprising:

2   accepting input corresponding to the interaction by the user with a selected one of the

3   representations; and

4   communicating the input to the remote device through the network such that the user

5   is able to utilize the user interface function on the remote device

6   corresponding to the selected representation.

1   21.   The method as described in claim 20, further comprising translating the input into

2   utilization by the user of the user interface function on the remote device

3   corresponding to the selected representation.

1   22.   The method as described in claim 19, further comprising:

2   monitoring the interaction of the user with the representations of the loaded user

3   interface; and

4   storing data representative of the monitored interaction, the monitored interaction

5   data capable of being used to configure the representations of the loaded user

6   interface.

1   23.   An information appliance capable of configuring a user interface, comprising:

2   equipment capable of connecting to a remote device through a network;

3   logic capable of accessing a resource on the remote device through the network;

4   logic capable of evaluating interaction of a user with the resource;

5   logic capable of identifying the resource based on the evaluated interaction; and

6   logic capable of loading a user interface corresponding to the identified resource.

1   24.   The information appliance as described in claim 23, wherein the resource is at least

2   one of: an application, an executable file, a web page, and a document.

1   25.   A storage medium readable by an information appliance and having instructions

2   encoded thereon for causing the information appliance to perform a method of configuring a

3   user interface, the method comprising the steps of:

4   accessing a resource on a remote device through a network;

5   evaluating interaction of a user with the resource;

6   identifying the resource based on the evaluated interaction; and

7   loading a user interface corresponding to the identified resource.

1 26.   The storage medium as described in claim 25, wherein the resource is at least one of:

2   an application, an executable file, a web page, and a document.

1 27.   A system for configuring a user interface, comprising:

2   a communications network;

3   a remote device comprising:

4   equipment capable of connecting to the communications network; and

5   one or more user interface functions; and

6   an information appliance comprising:

7   equipment capable of connecting to the communications network, the

8   information appliance capable of being intermittently coupled to and

9   communicating with the remote device through the communications

10   network;

11   logic capable of receiving user interface data describing one or more user

12   interface functions on the remote device through the communications

13   network;

14   logic capable of comparing the user interface data with a user interface

15   template; and

16   logic capable of configuring a display of one or more representations based on

17   the user interface data, each representation corresponding to one of the

18   user interface functions on the remote device and capable of

19   interaction by a user therewith.

1 28.   The system as described in claim 27, the information appliance further comprising:

2   logic capable of accepting input corresponding to the interaction by the user with a

3   selected one of the representations; and

4   logic capable of communicating the input to the remote device through the

5   communications network such that the user is able to utilize the user interface

6   function on the remote device corresponding to the selected representation.

A1   1   29.   The system as described in claim 28, the information appliance further comprising

2   logic capable of translating the input into utilization by the user of the user interface

3   function on the remote device corresponding to the selected representation.

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